

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 1, 22, 28 and 29 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 22, 28, 29 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobeski et al. (USP 6,819,343) in view of Wassom et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0057298); rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobeski et al. in view of Wassom et al. and further in view of Reha et al. (USP 6,282,709); rejected claims 11, 17, 21, 23 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobeski et al. in view of Wassom et al. and Reha et al. and further in view of Shima et al. (USP 6,295,479); rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobeski et al. in view of Wassom et al. and further in view of Manolis et al. (USP 6,583,799); rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobeski et al. in view of Wassom et al., Reha et al., and Shima et al. and further in view of Brennan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077829) and Manolis et al.; rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobeski et al. in view of Wassom et al., Reha et al., Shima et al. and further in view of Manolis et al.; rejected claims 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobeski et al. in view of Wassom et al. and Brennan et al.; rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobeski et al. in view of Wassom et al. and Brennan et al., and further in view of Reha et al.; and rejected claims 12, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobeski et al. in view of Wassom et al., Reha et al., Shima et al., and further in view of Brennan et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Sobeski teaches all of the claim elements, except updating button information based on a user's pre-stored personal information. The Examiner relies on the teachings of Wassom to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of Sobeski by purportedly teaching updating button information based on a user's pre-stored personal information citing to [0033]-[0035]. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertions.

Sobeski discloses a system wherein an operator of dynamic and updateable computing application panes and toolbars is afforded the ability to customize the content of a toolbar based upon an operator's preference. Alternatively, an operator may input specific preferences to a computing application that may be communicated to and stored on a computer server housing toolbar information. Through a secondary computing application residing on the computer server, an affinity may be determined between the user's preferences and the functions offered to the toolbar. This affinity may be used when toolbar information is retrieved from the computer server to create a customized toolbar having an appearance and, more importantly, functions in accordance with the operator's preferences.

The disclosure of Wassom is directed to a customized user interface. Based on user's personal information (i.e., maturity level), a certain group of user interface controls may be included in a toolbar. The user interface controls included in the toolbar are determined based on the grouping associated with a pre-stored user identifier.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite a client/server system comprising a plurality of computers connected to a network, wherein a server on the network stores button information which is data on menu buttons operating in connection with a client application introduced into a client computer, the client application being an image viewer, wherein the server generates customized updated button information based on a user's pre-stored personal information, and wherein the server has a function of transmitting the customized updated button information to the client computer; and the client application comprises a

program for viewing a plurality of images, the image viewer including a window including a file list display section that displays a folder structure of the client computer, an image list display section that lists a reduced image of the images stored in a folder designated by a user, and a menu display section that displays a list of a plurality of menu buttons, each of the plurality of menu buttons corresponding to a service, the program causing ~~which causes~~ the client computer to provide a function of communicating with the server to obtain the customized updated button information from the server, a function of displaying menu buttons on a display in combination with a GUI screen of the client application according to the customized updated button information obtained, and a function of performing operations defined for the displayed menu buttons, wherein a selected at least one image from the plurality of images in the image list display section is uploaded to a server associated with a selected menu button for performing the service associated with the selected menu button.

Claim 1, as amended, requires a client application comprises a program for viewing a plurality of images, **the image viewer including a window including a file list display section that displays a folder structure of the client computer, an image list display section that lists a reduced image of the images stored in a folder designated by a user, and a menu display section that displays a list of a plurality of menu buttons, each of the plurality of menu buttons corresponding to a service.** Further, the program further provides a function for obtaining customized updated button information from the server. A selected at least one image from the plurality of images in the image list display section is uploaded to a server associated with a selected menu button for performing the service associated with the selected menu button.

Neither Sobeski nor Wassom, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest these features. Manolis is directed to a viewer, operating on a client device, that permits a user to load images from, for example, a camera. At col. 4, line 63 through col. 5, lines 1-9, Manolis discloses as follows:

Referring now to FIG. 3, a process 300 for operating on an image file is shown. First, a viewer is launched (step 301). The viewer could be a browser such as Internet Explorer, available from Microsoft Corporation of Redmond Washington, or Netscape,

available from Netscape, Inc. of Mountain View, Calif. (now America Online). The browser loads a set of embedded tags such as HTML tags that instruct the browser to instantiate or load a software module such as a plug-in. The plug-in is a software program that extends the capability of the browser in a specific way - providing the ability to receive images dragged over an area defined by the plug-in. The browser does not need to run an external application in order to interpret the data, and the result can be embedded as part of the Web page. This presents the user with a single unified user interface where the Web document is a container for many different media types... The software module is then loaded (step 302) to customize the viewer. The software module defines an area on the screen and registers this area with the viewer as a drag-and-drop target to receive images whenever an image is dragged into the area (step 304).

However, these teachings are insufficient to teach or suggest the image viewer including a window including a file list display section that displays a folder structure of the client computer, an image list display section that lists a reduced image of the images stored in a folder designated by a user, and a menu display section that displays a list of a plurality of menu buttons, each of the plurality of menu buttons corresponding to a service, the program causing the client computer to provide a function of communicating with the server to obtain the customized updated button information from the server, a function of displaying menu buttons on a display in combination with a GUI screen of the client application according to the customized updated button information obtained, and a function of performing operations defined for the displayed menu buttons, wherein a selected at least one image from the plurality of images in the image list display section is uploaded to a server associated with a selected menu button for performing the service associated with the selected menu button.

As the cited references fail to teach, either alone or in combination, all of the claim elements of amended claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not obvious over the references as cited. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-21 and 26 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1 at least based on their dependency on claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that claims 22, 28 and 29 include at least one of the elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1 and thus these claims, together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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